Issue 3 April 2008

Lake Notes

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir

Issue Highlights

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION SATURDAY, April 12th (9:00 – 12:00)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, will be hosting a public listening session regarding the update to the W. Kerr Scott Shoreline Management Plan on Saturday, April 12th. The public is invited to attend this session between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1200 noon in the main conference room at the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir Visitor Assistance Center located at 499 Reservoir Road, Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Members of the W. Kerr Scott staff will be available to answer questions and/or address other concerns directly related to the Shoreline Management Plan. Issues concerning the W. Kerr Scott reservoir's water levels will not be a topic of this discussion.

A preliminary draft of the updated Shoreline Management Plan has been prepared as an alternative for consideration. Anyone who wishes to examine this preliminary draft of the W. Kerr Scott Shoreline Management Plan may do so by visiting, the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir's Visitor Assistance Center or the Projects website: **http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WKScott/index.htm**.

Any questions relating to this process may be directed to the Project's Shoreline Management coordinator Ranger Jory Shepherd or Operations Project Manager, Terry A. Ramsey at 336-921-3390.

Department of the Army
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir
499 Reservoir Road
Wilkesboro, NC 28697-2330

THE VALUE OF SHORELINE VEGETATION

Shoreline Stabilization and Water Quality Protection

The roots of trees and shrubs along the shoreline help hold soils in place, preventing erosion. The layers of vegetation present in a natural shoreline provide multiple layers of protection for the soil from the adverse impacts of hard rainfalls by slowing the velocity of the raindrops, resulting in less impact force when they strike the ground. The resulting slower rainfalls result in less granulation of the soil and less movement of soil particles off site (erosion). The loss of soil nutrients is high in erosion, as the finer grained particles, which are the first to be washed away, are also the highest in fertility. The more small soil particles preserved by a protective buffer of shoreline vegetation, the higher the soil fertility.

Shoreline vegetation also traps sediments and pollutants, helping keep the water clean. Vegetative buffers provide an area where chemicals, pesticides, and Fertilizers can decompose, rather than placing a load on the water body. Toxic pesticides are converted to non-toxic forms through biodegradation, which occurs in the vegetative buffer. Nitrogen applied as fertilizer can be converted into organic matter, and later decomposed and released into the air, rather than flowing directly into the lake resulting in adverse effects to water quality.

Thermal Cover and Temperature Moderation

A vegetative buffer shields a water body from summer temperature extremes, thus moderating the water body temperature. The cover of leaves and branches brings welcome shad that provides a cooler area for aquatic life. Cooler areas hold more dissolved oxygen, which fish need to breathe. Shoreline vegetation also provides an area of filtration of storm water runoff, thereby increasing recharge of ground water. Later releases of flow from ground water to the lake occur on a gradual basis and are cooler than overland flows. The entry of this cooler water into the lake also helps to moderate the water temperature, making it less stressful to aquatic life.

Wildlife Habitat and Food Chain Support

Many wildlife species use shoreline areas during all or part of their life cycle. Shoreline vegetation provides food, cover, nesting, and sanctuary for these animals. Vegetative buffers form the foundation of the wildlife food chain by providing a basic food source for insects and smaller birds and animals.

In addition, shoreline vegetation is essential for maintaining the natural beauty of the lake and adding to the aesthetic enjoyment. The Corps of Engineers is committed to protecting and preserving the shoreline vegetation at W. Kerr Scott Lake to ensure resource protection and enjoyment for future generations

Press Releases/What's New
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters Open April 5

RALEIGH, N.C. (March 18, 2008) – The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will open approximately 1,120 miles of "Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters" in 25 western North Carolina counties at 6 a.m. on Saturday April 5. The season will run until one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 28, 2009.

While fishing on Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters, anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limits or bait restrictions.
Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters are marked by green-and-white signs. This year, Commission personnel are stocking hatchery-supported waters starting this month under a shortened stocking schedule. The Commission implemented a shortened stocking schedule in response to drought conditions forecasted for this spring and summer.

If the drought continues, biologists expect that stream conditions will be less favorable later this the summer than they are now because water temperatures will be higher and flows lower.
The Commission plans to stock more than 791,500 catchable-sized trout in streams designated as Hatchery-Supported and Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters. The ratio of stocked fish for most streams is 40 percent brook trout, 40 percent rainbow trout and 20 percent brown trout. Ninety-six percent of the stocked fish average 10 inches in length while the remaining fish exceed 14 inches in length.

Commission biologists remind anglers to respect the property where they are fishing. A vast number of the waters currently available to hatchery-supported stockings are privately controlled, and anglers need to be aware that these fishing opportunities are only through the continued support of the private landowners.
For trout fishing maps and weekly stocking summaries on Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters, click here. Note that stocking information appears online for only seven days, and updates are posted only after fish are stocked

MEET OUR STAFF.....

Gwyn Church has been at W. Kerr Scott since 1983. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He was a maintenance employee until March 2000, when he was promoted to Civil Engineer Technician. He is responsible for quality assurance on contracts for work done at the lake. Gwyn is the go-to guy for all the best fishing holes as he is an avid fisherman. He is an important part of the W. Kerr Scott Team!

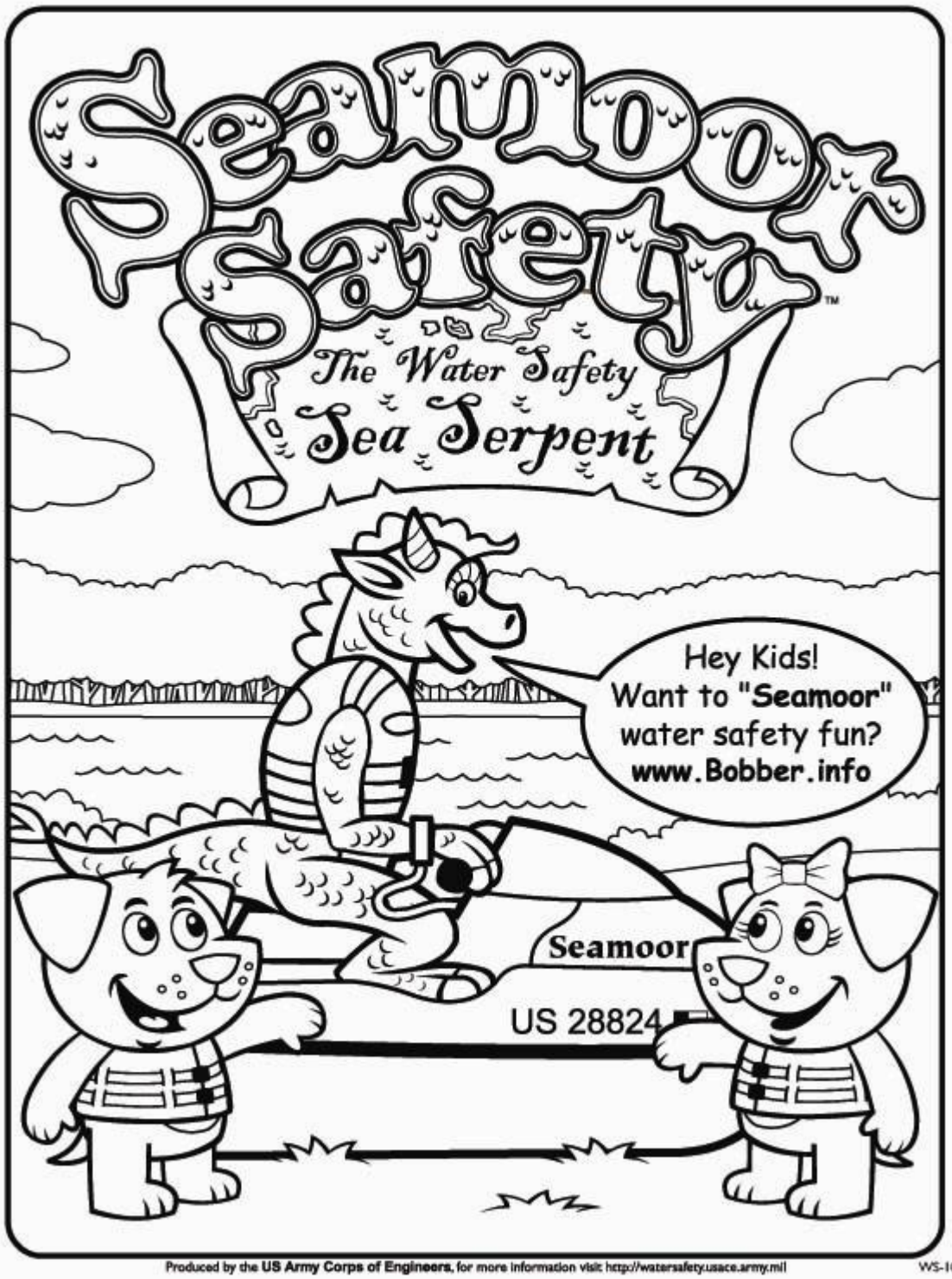
~~~~~~

Trail Usage Increases

Assistant Manager, R.G. Absher and the entire lake staff is excited about the increase in trail use at W. Kerr Scott Lake. There will soon be approximately 30 miles of multi-use trails, making the lake a prime destination for hikers, mountain bikers, cross country runners and nature enthusiasts. Special thanks for the hard work and volunteer efforts to the Brushy Mountain Cycling Club!


~~~~~~

Kid's Page



Produced by the US Army Corps of Engineers, for more information visit: http://watersafety.usace.army.mil WS-105

Native Plants at the Lake

Striped Wintergreen ~ *Chimaphila maculata*

Pyrolaceae Family (Pyrolas)

Other Names: Striped Prince's Pine, Pipsissewa.

Photo by: Jory Shepherd, Wilkesboro, NC (2005)

Plant Type: This is a woody herb; and an evergreen, which can reach 10 inches in height

Leaves: The leaves are whorled. Leaves can reach 2.75 inches in length. Each leaf is toothed and striped white down the middle.

Flowers: The flowers have 5 Regular Parts and are up to 0.65 inches wide. They are white or pinkish. Blooms first appear in late spring and continue into late summer. There are often two flowers sometimes several, hanging face down.

Fruit: A brown erect capsule.

Pipsissewa is still used as a flavoring in such products as candy and root beer.

Eye on the Environment

Striped Skunk

Skunk in trashcan at Fish Dam Creek Overlook

The striped skunk belongs to the Mustelidae family (catchers of mice) along with ferrets, mink, and weasels even though skunks are omnivorous. The striped skunk is true to its name, both common and scientific. Its scientific name (mephitis mephitis) actually means "noxious gas, noxious gas". And the striped skunk has a very bold white stripe used as a warning to its smelly contents. And each skunk has its own unique coloration pattern. A skunk's first line of defense is their two musk glands located on either side of the anus which spray an extremely smelly yellow foam. But before a skunk sprays it goes through a series of warning motions. First it erects its tail and stamps its feet. Then it will hiss. If the intruder has not gone away by then, the skunk will spray. A skunk can spray as far away as 12 feet and as many as 8 times.

Habitat: Woods and fields throughout North America, except the deserts of the Southwest.

Enemies: Great horned owls and bobcats.

Diet: Skunks are omnivorous but they mostly eat insects. They also eat bird's eggs and fruit.

Fun facts: Skunks have poor vision but their smell and hearing is good. Also skunks are resistant to snake venom and can survive 10 times the venom needed to kill an animal of the same size. And a skunk can spray its musk accurately up to 10 feet and less accurately to about 16 feet.

Calendar of Events

April 15th	Fort Hamby and Warrior Creek Open
May 10th	Rendezvous Mountain Bluegrass Concert. (Forest Edge Amphitheater, Fort Hamby Park)
May 15th	Boomer & Berry Swimbeaches Open
June 20th	Opening Night Tom Dooley Play (Forest Edge Amphitheater, Fort Hamby Park)

Contacts

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
499 Reservoir Road
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
(336) 921-3390
(336) 921-2330 fax
jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil

Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake
Teresa Ford, Executive Director
(336) 921-3390
wkerrscott1@yahoo.com

Lake Shots

Rangers Remove Tire, Photo by: Richard Smith

If you have photographs of the lake, wildlife around the lake or recreation related activities and would like to share, please email to jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil.